UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
www.music.ualberta.ca

World Music Sampler

The West African, Indian, and Middle Eastern and North African Music Ensembles

with special guest artist Rahim Alhaj

Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 3 pm

Francis Winspear Centre for the Arts

Programme

WEST AFRICAN MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Gahu

Fume Fume

Gota

INDIAN MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Shiv Shankar Mahadev: Bhajan
A mesmerizing composition by Jagjit Singh in Ektaal
(12 beat rhythmic cycle)

Raga Kalawati: Sitar
A gat played on Sitar composed in Rupak Taal (7 beat)

Qaida Teen taal: Tabla
A composition played by Tabla Students in Teentaal (16 beat)

Yaman Dhun: Sitar
A melodic dhun on Sitar in Raga Yaman in Dadra Taal (6 beat)

Mahi Yaar Di Garooli: Raga Ahir Bhairav
Enthralling Sufi song composed by Hazrat Sachal Sarmast
(18th CE) in Kehrawa Taal (8 beat)

MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Fika kullu ma ara hasan (In you everything I see is beautiful), in maqam Bayyati. This song exemplifies the *muwashshah*, a classical strophic Arabic poetic form originating in 10th century Andalusia (southern Spain). Many settings of the *muwashshahat* utilize complex rhythmic cycles; this one (called *al-mudawwar al-misri*, "the Egyptian cycle") is in 12 beats. Featuring Jenny Boutros.

Habbaytak tanseet al-nawm (I loved you and forgot sleep), in maqam Bayyati. Composition by Ziad Rahbani (b. 1956, Lebanon) setting poetry by Joseph Harb (b. c 1945). This beautiful song was composed for the Lebanese diva Fairouz. Featuring Reem Skeik.

Bahaar e del nesheen (the pleasant spring), in maqam Esfahan. This song was composed as an instrumental piece in 1961 by Roohollah Kaleqi, a renowned Persian musician. Several years later Bijan Taraqi wrote lyrics for the song, which were sung by the tender voice of Banan, a Persian musician and singer. The song, very famous across Iran, is in the maqam Esfahan, sounding similar to the minor scale. Featuring Ehsan Shahidi (who also provided the notes).

Programme Cont.

RAHIM ALHAJ & FRIENDS

Oud Solo - Rahim Alhaj
Oud Duet - Rahim Alhaj and Abdelhadi Ouajdouni

Two compositions by Rahim Alhaj, for oud and string quintet:

Going Home
Samai Baghdad

Oud: Rahim Alhaj
Violins: Guillaume Tardif, Diana Sapozhnikova
Viola: Leanne Dammann
Cello: Patrick Smith
Bass: Selahattin Yazicioglu

MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Zeina, maqam Hijaz. Composed by Mohamed Abdel Wahhab (1907-1991), probably the Arab world's most celebrated composer-singer of the 20th century, this instrumental piece, originally composed for the film Zannouba (1950) featuring dancing legend Samia Gamal (1924-1994), has remained exceedingly popular among dancers worldwide, not only due to its illustrious history, but also for its many rhythm and tempo changes, including the distinctive *zaar* rhythm (also known as *ayoub*) traditionally performed by women healers in the Nile valley and East Africa. As lead dancer Chris Schneider writes, "Zeina" was a very popular song to dance in the North American nightclubs of the 70s and 80s…Although currently not as common, most dancers have at least one choreography or performance to "Zeina" in her dance history. These days, modernized versions of "Zeina" are often performed as group choreographies or in gala shows around North America, as the structure and grandeur of the music lends itself well to large stages and troupe performances. Featuring Chris and her dancers, and with *taqasim* by Dr Ashraf El Assaly (oud) and Ari Mastoras (violin).

Ya Mal al-Sham, preceded by a short mawwal, both in maqam Rast on C. The famous melody is attributed to 19th century Syrian Abu Khalil al-Qabani (1835–1902), composer, playwright, and founder of modern Arabic theatre, and the lyrics to `Umar al-Halabi. "Oh treasure of Damascus, oh my God, my treasure. The time is so long, my beauty, come here to me. Even if time is long, nothing has changed. I miss you, oh light of my eyes, until we repeat times past. I spent my most beautiful moments with you." Featuring Tony Abinader.

Tonight's concert was sponsored by the University of Alberta Department of Music, the Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology, and folkwaysAlive!

About oud virtuoso and composer Rahim Alhaj

Rahim Alhaj, virtuoso oud musician and composer, was born in Baghdad, Iraq and began playing the oud (the grandfather of all stringed instruments) at age nine. Early on, it was evident that he had a remarkable talent for playing the oud. Mr. Alhaj studied under the renowned Munir Bashir, considered by many to be the greatest oud player ever, and Salim Abdul Kareem, at the Institute of Music in Baghdad, Iraq. Mr. AlHaj won various awards at the Conservatory and graduated in 1990 with a diploma in composition. He moved to the US in 2000 as a political refugee and has resided in Albuquerque, New Mexico ever since. Rahim is considered one of the finest oud players in the world. He has won many accolades and awards including two Grammy nominations. Rahim has recorded and performed with other master musicians of varied backgrounds and styles including genre-busting American guitarist Bill Frisell, modern accordion innovator Guy Klucevsek, Indian sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan and indy-rock pioneers REM. Rahim's music delicately combines traditional Iraqi maqams with contemporary styling and influence. His compositions evoke the experience of exile from his homeland and of new beginnings in his adopted country. His pieces establish new concepts without altering the foundation of the traditional Iraqi School of Oud.

West African Music Ensemble

Robert Kpogo, Instructor
Dr.Wisdom Agorde, Instructor
Tendai Muparutsa, Teaching Assistant

The West African Music Ensemble, studies the polyphonic and polyrhythmic music of West Africa with particular focus on the Music of Ewe people of Ghana, Togo and Benin. This music combines song, dance, and percussion. As each component is crucial to the experience of Ewe music, all members participate as dancers, singers, and drummers. Founded in the fall of 1999 by Michael Frishkopf, the West African Music Ensemble is regularly featured in the Centre for Ethnomusicology's "World Music Sampler" and the University of Alberta International Week as well as occasional special events. The Ensemble is fortunate to own a complete set of authentic West African instruments for use by registered members of the group.

West African Music Ensemble Performers

Chin-Wen Huang
Conor Rogan
Barry Bilinsky
Chunwei Wang
Yun Fiona Chen
Young-Sin (Jason) Park
Adam Niemetz
Jillian Fulton
David Addo
Michael Aytenfisu
Chen (Vincent) Zhi
Jacqueline Liang
Mengkang (Mike) Wang
Kayla Chambers
Aprile Hanrath
Wen Gao

West African Music Ensemble Dances

Gahu/Agahu was created by the Egun speaking people of Benin. Its popularity spread to the Badagry area of Nigeria where Ewe fishermen encountered it and shared it with their people upon return to Ghana. In the language of the creators, Gahu/Agahu means "airplane"-in reference to an event that occurred during its inaugural performance. As the Gahu/Agahu spread, it has collected song texts in many languages including, Egun, Yoruba, Ewe, French, and English.

Fume Fume is a ritual and spiritual dance of the Ga people of southern Ghana. The costumes and body make up depicts the spiritual possession of the dancers on stage. This sac rate music and has evolve to become part of the social music and dance of today's youth.

Gota was originally a dance for medicine men and women of the ancient kingdom of Dahomey, now Benin, in West Africa. Today, Gota is performed for social entertainment. The synchronized stops and starts of the drums and dancers lend the dance an air of suspense and excitement.

University of Alberta Indian Music Ensemble

Sharmila Mathur, Director/Instructor
Regula Qureshi, Instructor
Karim Gillani, Instructor

The Indian Music Ensemble studies the rich tradition of classical Indian music through group instruction and performance. Members learn the basics of raga (melody) and tala (rhythm) through instruction in singing, tabla (drums), or sitar (plucked lute). Members of the ensemble have the opportunity to attend many workshops with internationally renowned guest artists. The Indian Music Ensemble is regularly featured in the Centre for Ethnomusicology's "World Music Sampler" and the University of Alberta International Week, as well as occasional special events. Rental instruments are available to registered students.The Indian Music Ensemble is a course available for University credits.

For more information please contact:
Sharmila Mathur at sharmila.mathur@ualberta.ca

Indian Music Ensemble Performers

Chen, Zhi
Gillani, Karim
Joshi, Jay
Joshi, Ojas
Ju, Bowei
Karkhanis, Subhash
Keiler, Garry
Mathur, Sharmila
Mehta Kakhanis, Devila
Patel, Harsh Kirtibhai
Qureshi, Regula
Rao, Aditya Govindaraju
Ravi, Srilata
Ryhard, Nathan Michael
Sapsuwan, Peewara
Shaw, Andrew Cuthbert
Singh, Jerrica
Sohanpal, Geetanjali
Vemullah, Siddu
Wylie, Dana Olivia

The Middle Eastern and North African Music Ensemble
Directed by Michael Frishokopf

Abinader, Tony	Voice
Aizouki, Fadi	Oud and Buzuq
Al-Kheder, Amal	Voice
Ali, Nizar	Tabla
Azari, Hossein	Voice
Boutros, Jenny	Voice
Brocks, Dion	Electric Guitar
Campbell, Ross	Violin
Durand, Lorraine	Dance
Durand, Gabrielle	Dance
El Assaly, Ashraf	Oud and Voice
El Atia, Samira	Voice
Elzein, Deena	Voice
Firth, Lia	Dance
Frishkopf, Michael	Org
Frizzell, Mary	Voice
Fulton, Jillian	Voice (Teaching Assistant)
Girard, Isabelle	Dance
Jorati, Amin	Voice
Kanjilal, Manikarnika	Voice
Kascak, Lauren	Violin and Saxophone
Laine, Rhonda	Dance
Lott, Jolene	Dance
Mastoras, Ari	Violin
Mattar, Raek (Rick)	Tabla
Nassar, Usama	Bongos
Neufeld, Cam	Violin
Ouajdouni, Abdelhadi	Oud
Piwowarczyk, Magda	Percussion and Dance
Poorhaydari, Kioumars	Tombak, Daf, and Voice
Salama, Marwa	Voice
Sapsuwan, Peewara	Violin
Scheelar, Catherine	Dance
Schneider, Chris	Percussion and Dance
Shaban, Nada	Voice
Shahidi, Ehsan	Voice
Shubeita, Mona	Voice
Skeik, Reem	Voice
Smith, Katie	Dance
Sokil, Allison	Voice
Steenstrup, Martha	Percussion
Subeh, Ibrahim	Voice
Waissi, Hoshyar	Daff, Tabla, and Voice
Watt, Justina	Trumpet
Wegner, Andreas	Bass
Wylie, Dana	Guitar, Oud
Yousefzadeh, Mahtab	Voice
Youssef, Nermeen	Voice

The Middle Eastern and North African Music Ensemble is a course available for University credit. For more information, contact Michael Frishkopf (michaelf@ualberta.ca), or visit: bit.ly/mename

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
UPCOMING EVENTS

Music at Winspear presents:
A Celebration of Winds & Voices
Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Madrigal Singers & Concert Choir
Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 8pm at the Winspear Centre for the Arts
Featuring works by Brahms, Grainger, Holsinger, Purcell & Whitacre
$20 Adults | $15 Seniors | $10 Students | $60 Season Flex Pass
Tickets available in advance through the Department of Music
(3-82 Fine Arts Building, University of Alberta | 780.492.0601 |
music@ualberta.ca) or at the door on the day of the performance

The Department of Music Masterclass Series presents
A Trumpet Masterclass with Allen Vizzutti
Monday, April 16, 1-3pm in Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building
Free and open to the public

The Department of Music presents
The Undergraduate Composers Concert
Featuring The Contempo New Music Ensemble
Tuesday, April 17 at 6 pm in Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building
Admission by donation

Thank you for supporting the Department of Music. Word of mouth is our strongest form of publicity. If you enjoyed tonight's performance, please share your experience with others!